

Gypsum Wallboard Facilities History

SEATTLE PLANT

Approval was given July, 1953 for Kaiser Engineers to commence design and construction of a gypsum wallboard and plaster plant to have a design capacity of 200,000 sq. ft. per day - 1/2" wallboard and 15,000 tons per year of plaster products. Site preparation commenced in September, 1953. Actual construction of facilities began January, 1954. Initial production occurred in September, 1954 and final completion by general contractor was October, 1954.

Present capacity is 425,000 sq. ft. per day - 1/2" wallboard. By 1971 plaster manufacture was phased out due to lack of market demand.

LOCATION

The plant is located on a 9.7 acre site between East Marginal Way and the Duwamish River, adjacent to Glacier Sand and Gravel cement distribution and ready-mix facilities.

GENERAL FACILITIES

Rock receiving hoppers and a belt conveying system were installed adjacent to an existing dock walkway and existing ship pier and bulkhead. Rock received from self-discharging ore carriers is conveyed to a 35,000 ton dome covered rock storage at a rate of 1000 tons per hour maximum.

Crushing and calcining equipment includes one 75 hp hammer mill crusher (80 tons per hour capacity); one 4 ft x 6 ft 3/8" screen rock screen (for cement retarder gypsum installed in 1961) (45 ton per hour capacity); two 100 hp, 54" Raymond roller mill grinders (17 ton per hour capacity each); two 10' diam. by 13' deep Ehrsam calcining kettles; two 4' dia. x 16' long 75 hp ball mill grinders; and necessary storage and feed bins. In 1974 modern, dry type dust collectors were installed on the calcining kettles replacing the original wet type collectors to conform to city and state effluent regulations.

Board manufacturing equipment includes various storage bins and material feeders feeding into a 43" inside diameter horizontal disc slurry pin mixer; an Ehrsam board forming machine with paper handling and feeding racks,

forming table and rolls, two 57" wide by 126' long forming belts, one 57" wide by 95' long powered roller conveyor, one rotary cut-off knife, one 80' long roller conveyor accelerator section, and a 20' long transfer conveyor feeding into an 8 deck, 230' long, 9 ft wide, steam heated Coe panel board dryer (an auxiliary gas fired burner was installed in #1 Zone of the dryer in 1959). Finished board take-off and booking from the outfeed end of the board dryer is by hand into a bundle taping machine.

Other facilities include a plant office building, a combination change house/machine shop, warehouse building, and a steam plant adjacent the board manufacturing building.

RAW MATERIALS

Gypsum ore is supplied by a mexican subsidiary, Compania Occidental, S.A., from a quarry on San Marcos Island, Baja California. The ore is transported in self-discharging bulk carriers operated by Gypsum Carrier Inc., a Panamanian subsidiary.

Paper is supplied from a company-owned paper mill in San Leandro, California. Other raw materials and supplies are purchased from the most advantageous source.

UTILITIES

Power is supplied by Seattle City Light at 13,800 volts.

Gas is supplied by Washington Natural Gas Company on an interruptible basis. Standby fuel is oil with 200,000 gallons on-site storage.

Water for domestic and process is provided by the City of Seattle. Water connections are provided on the dock to service ship requirements.

WAREHOUSE AND SHIPPING

Maximum workable inventory is 4,000,000 sq.ft. Absolute maximum inventory is 6,000,000 sq.ft. Covered loading is provided for 5 railcars and 4 trucks.

IMPROVEMENTS

- 1959 - Gas fired direct heat burner installed - #1 Zone board dryer
- 1968 - Truck loading facilities
- 1972 - Dust control - Rock receiving and handling
- 1974 - a) Pre-heater coil added - #1 Zone board dryer
 - b) Continuous calcining automation of calcine kettles
 - c) Improve truck loading
 - d) Dry collectors - calcine kettles

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